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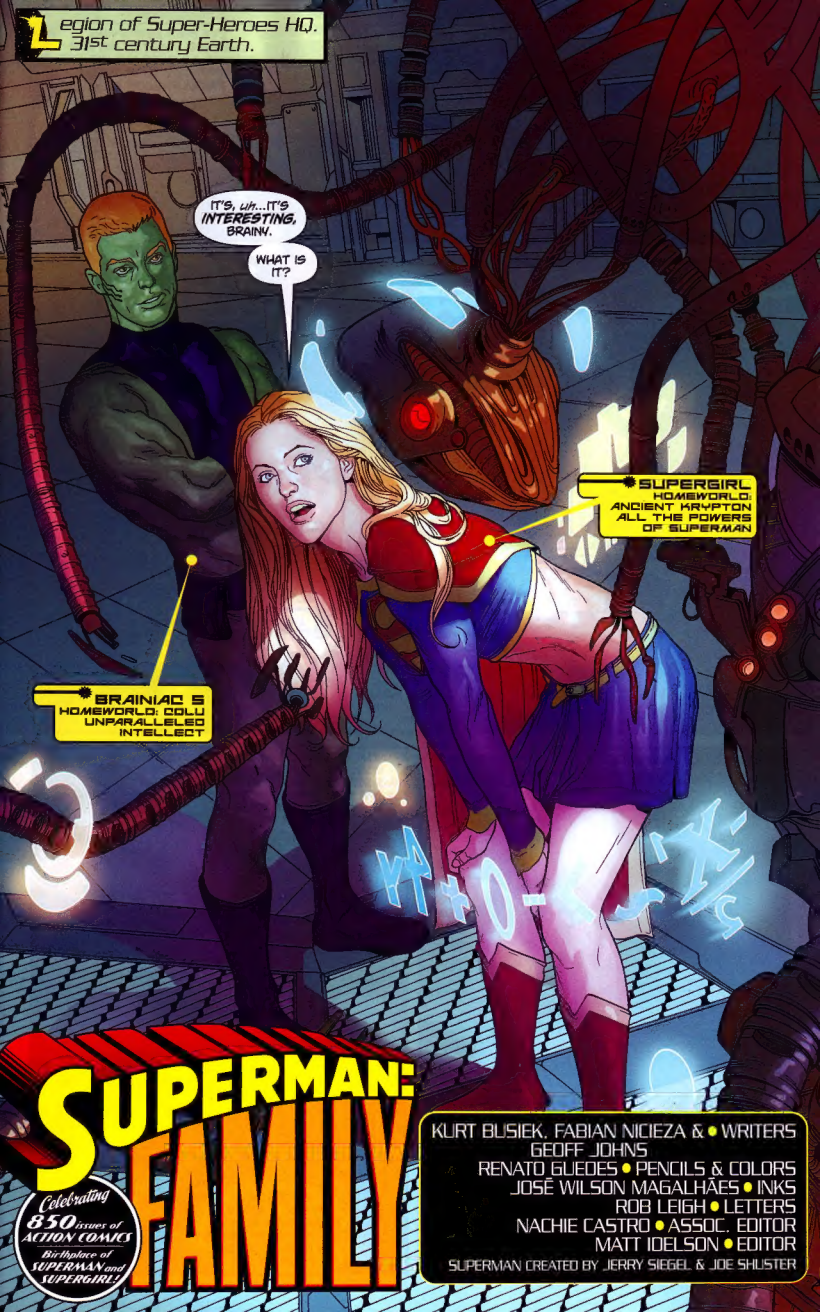
Legion of Super-Heroes HQ. 31st century Earth.
IT'S, uh...IT'S INTERESTING, BRAINY.
WHAT IS IT?
SUPERGIRL
HOMEWORLD: ANCIENT KRYPTON
ALL THE POWERS OF SUPERMAN
BRAINIAC 5
HOMEWORLD: COLU
UNPARALLELED INTELLECT
SUPERMAN: FAMILY
Celebrating 850 issues of ACTION COMICS
Birthplace of SUPERMAN and SUPERGIRL!
KURT BUSIEK, FABIAN NICIEZA & GEOFF JOHNS • WRITERS
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ROB LEIGH • LETTERS
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MATT IDELSON • EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

I CALL IT A CHRONEXUS.
IT'S LITTLE MORE THAN A TOY AT PRESENT, BUT IT'S PROMISING, AT LEAST.
I'VE BEEN IDENTIFYING CHRONAL PARTICLES, AND SEEKING A WAY TO ISOLATE AND MANIPULATE THEM, WHICH SHOULD ALLOW ME --
TO STAY COOPED UP IN THE LAB FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
ULTRA BOY.
MISSED A GOOD FIGHT, KARA.
THE RESOURCE RAIDERS WERE TRYING TO STEAL GANYMEDE'S CORE, AND WE GOT TO STOCK 'EM UP ON BROKEN FACES INSTEAD.
CHAMELEON HOMEWORLD: DURLA SHAPE-CHANGING ABILITY
SHADOW LASS HOMEWORLD: TALOK VIII CREATES DARKNESS
INVISIBLE KID HOMEWORLD: EARTH POWER TO DISAPPEAR
ULTRA BOY HOMEWORLD: RIMBOR VARIOUS POWERS UTILIZED ONE AT A TIME
AND SAVED THE GANYMEDE INSTALLATION.
YEAH, BUT IT WAS THE BUSTED FACES PART I LIKED BEST.
WHILE YOU...
LET'S SEE. YOU HELPED BRAINY BUILD AN AIR-MATH-DOING THING?
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A WAY TO RETURN SUPERGIRL TO HER PROPER TIME IN THE 21ST CENTURY, SINCE SHE BECAME TRAPPED IN OURS. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP.
THE CHRONEXUS WILL SCAN HER TEMPORAL SIGNATURE -- HANDS OFF, ULTRA BOY! -- AND SEARCH FOR MATCHING CHRONAL PARTICLES.
WHAT, I SWEAT DUMBTH JUICE NOW?
SO IT'S LIKE OPENING A WINDOW TO ANOTHER POINT IN TIME. YOU CAN'T TRAVEL TO IT, BUT YOU CAN LOOK AT IT?

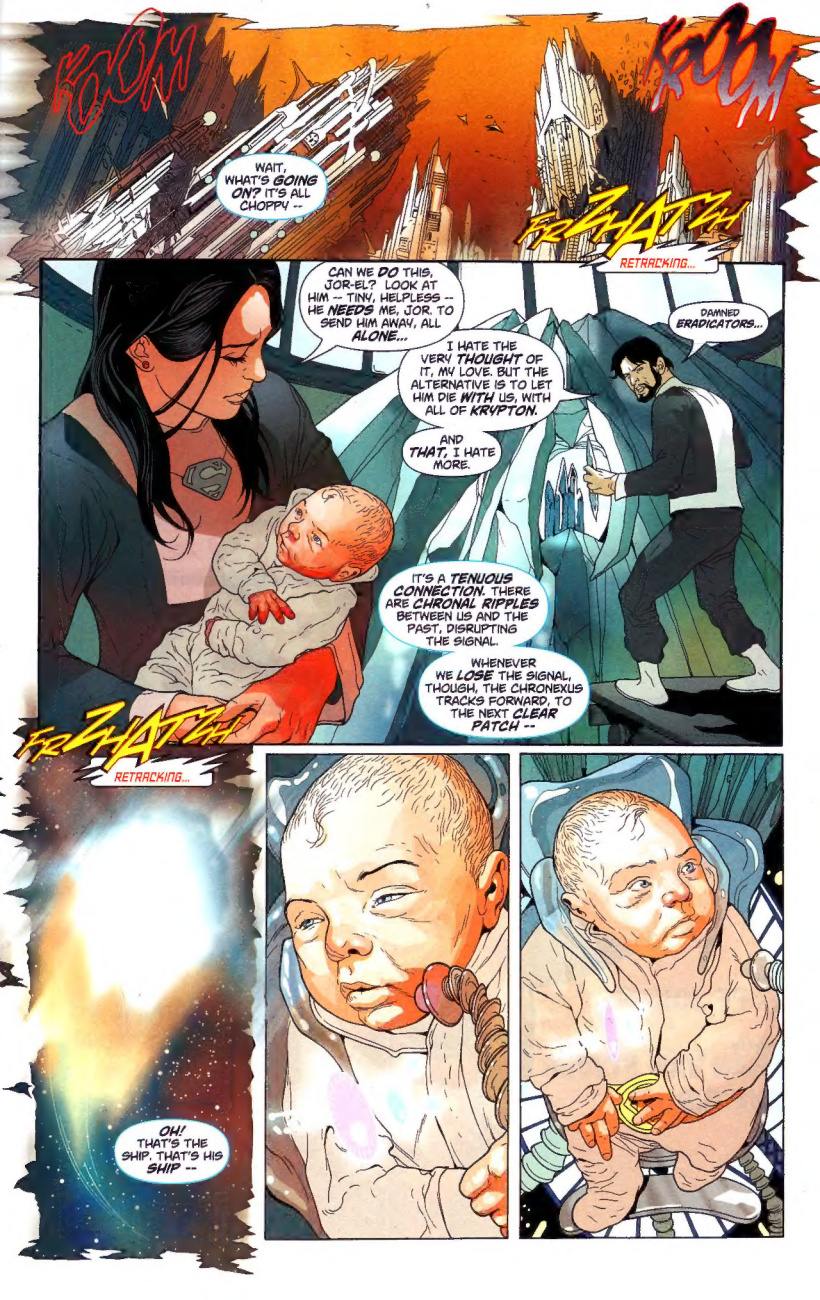
IS WHAT I-KID SAID RIGHT? IT'S A TIME VIEWER?
THIS'LL LET ME SEE THE PAST -- MY PAST?
THAT IS WHAT I SAID, YES.
READY TO TEST IT?
NOW?
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
WELL, I...
THERE'S THINGS I DON'T REMEMBER, AND I DON'T THINK THIS IS HOW I WANT TO FIND THEM OUT. MY PAST, MY FUTURE IN THE PAST, ALL OF IT...
I WANT TO BE WHO I'M GOING TO BE. WHICH MIGHT NOT BE WHO I WAS. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
WASN'T REALLY LISTENING. SHALL WE TEST IT ANYWAY, OR WALLOW IN ADOLESCENT ANGST SOME MORE?
YOU'RE NOT STAYING? IT'S A CHANCE TO SEE INTO THE PAST...!
WHEN YOU TUNE IN ON THE WINATH-RIMBOR MOOPSBALL TOURNAMENT FROM '99, BUZZ ME. THAT WAS A HELL OF A GAME...
DOES IT HAVE TO BE MY PAST? CAN WE LOOK AT SOMEONE ELSE'S?
YOU OR SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU.
THE IDEA IS TO REACH BACK A MILLENNIUM. WE NEED YOUR CHRONAL PROGRESSION -- OR SOMEONE'S YOURS CROSSED OFTEN.
UH... I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SUPERMAN...
HM?
HE'S YOUR COUSIN -- YOU DON'T KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM ALREADY?
HE'S THE BIG HERO IN MY TIME, AND I KNOW HE'S THE INSPIRATION FOR THE LEGION...
BUT WHAT I REMEMBER, MOSTLY, IS HIM BEING STUFFY AND OVERBEARING AND, WELL, KIND OF A JERK.

A JERK? SUPERMAN?
KIND OF, YEAH.
ALWAYS PUSHING ME AROUND, TELLING ME WHAT TO DO -- LIKE HE WAS MY BOSS, NOT MY COUSIN, AND --
WHITT
HEY, IT'S WORKING! I CAN SEE -- WAIT, I THINK THAT'S METROPOLIS, BUT --
BUT... WHAT?
IT'S WRONG.
WHAT? WRONG HOW?
THE CITY'S RIGHT...
...BUT THE TIME IS WRONG. I'LL RECALIBRATE, SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT...
WAIT, WAIT! WHAT'S GOING --
THE BANK!
THEY'VE GOT TOMMY GUNS!
RUN! RUN!
BRAKKA-BRAK-KA-BKKAKKA-BRAKT-KAK-K-K
'SCUSE ME -- COMIN' THROUGH --
YOU CRAZY, GIRLIE? YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SHOVIN' INTO?
FIRST OFF, YOU DUMB PALOOKA, THE NAME'S "LANE," NOT "GIRLIE."
AND SECOND --

IT'S TH' SUPERMAN
GUN HIM! GUN HIM!
BRAKKAKK
BRATTATATTT
IT AIN'T STOPPIN' HIM, HERMAN! BULLETS AIN'T STOPPING HIM!
-- I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING.
THAT'S OUR CAPED MYSTERY-MAN ALL RIGHT...
IT'S NOT HIM.
HUH? BUT IT LOOKS --
KSSSH

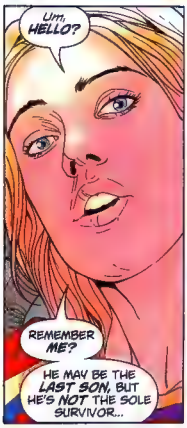
NOT HIM.
THE MULTIVERSAL STABILIZER OVERCOMPENSATED FOR VIBRO-CHRONAL FLUX. WE LOST TIMELINE COHESION -- PICKED UP A LATERAL TIMELINE.
YOU JUST... MADE ALL THAT UP, DIDN'T YOU?
WHTTT
IT'S BASIC TEMPO-SCIENCE, CHAMELEON. I'LL JUST RECALIBR --
POPOVERS? THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT...
WHTTT
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT. IS THIS HIM, KARA?
NO. NICE, BUT NO.
WHTTT
OOH, CUTE. BUT NO.
WHTTT
THAT... HAIR! NO.
WHTTT
NO...
WHTTT
THERE! THAT'S THE ONE, STOP THERE!

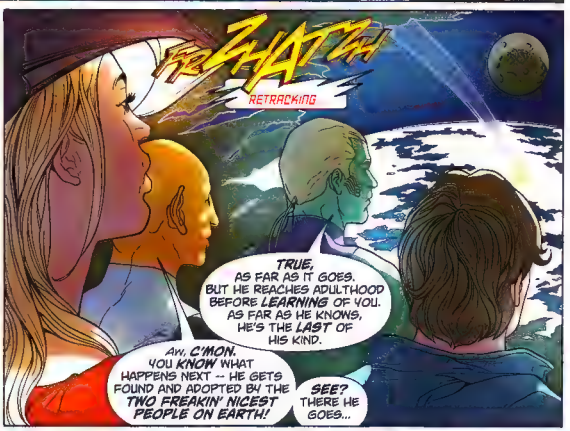
THAT IS IT -- WE'VE GOT A PERFECT MATCH WITH YOUR MULTIVERSAL HARMONIC. THIS IS THE RIGHT TIMELINE.
I'LL CYCLE BACK TO THE START OF SUPERMAN'S CHRONO-SIGNATURE...
LARA?
GOOD RAO, LARA!
HNNN...
J-JOR... SOMETHING'S... SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE BABY... HE'S >HNNNE COMING...
SO SOON?!
HE CAN'T -- LARA, IT'S TOO EARLY!
THIS IS KRYPTON? TRULY? THESE ARE IMAGES OF ANCIENT KRYPTON?
YES, CHAMELEON. THE CHRONEXUS IS TRANSLATING AUTOMATICALLY FROM KRYPTONESE...
THE ANESTHI-FIELD SHOULD BE TAKING MOST OF YOUR PAIN, LARA. YES? GOOD.
BUT THE BABY -- I RETROFITTED THE ONLY TEST ROCKET I COULD SALVAGE, BUT THE LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS...THEY CAN ONLY HANDLE ONE PERSON!
IT COULD TAKE YOU TO SAFETY, EVEN PREGNANT -- BUT NOT TWO! OF YOU, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO REBUILD, DON'T HAVE THE MATERIALS...
HRNNH?
N-NO CHOICE... WE'LL HAVE TO...HAVE TO...
FRZHATCH!
RETRACKING...
OH, JOR, LOOK. HE'S SO...
FRZHATCH!
RETRACKING...

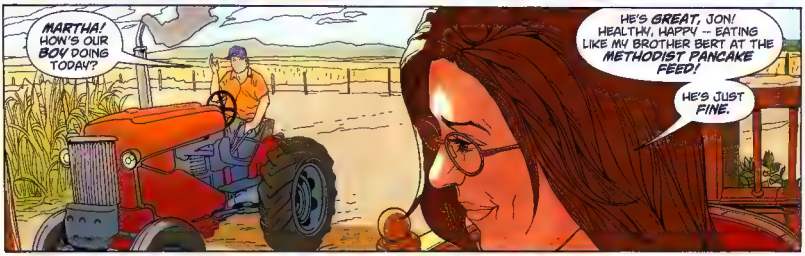

KAOOM
KAOOM
WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S ALL CHOPPY --
FRZHATCH
RETRACKING...
CAN WE DO THIS, JOR-EL? LOOK AT HIM -- TINY, HELPLESS -- HE NEEDS ME, JOR. TO SEND HIM AWAY, ALL ALONE...
I HATE THE VERY THOUGHT OF IT, MY LOVE. BUT THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO LET HIM DIE WITH US, WITH ALL OF KRYPTON.
AND THAT, I HATE MORE.
DAMNED ERADICATORS...
IT'S A TENUOUS CONNECTION. THERE ARE CHRONAL RIPPLES BETWEEN US AND THE PAST, DISRUPTING THE SIGNAL.
WHENEVER WE LOSE THE SIGNAL, THOUGH, THE CHRONEXUS TRACKS FORWARD, TO THE NEXT CLEAR PATCH --
FRZHATCH
RETRACKING...
OH! THAT'S THE SHIP. THAT'S HIS SHIP --

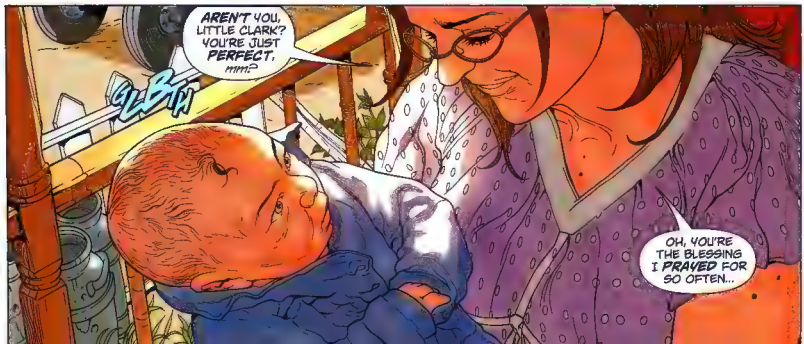
Ma-ma...?
SUBJECT REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.
CONTRA-INDICATED. INITIATING SOMNO-RAYS.
SOMNO-RAYS ACTIVE. INDUCING HIBERNI-LEVEL SLEEP...

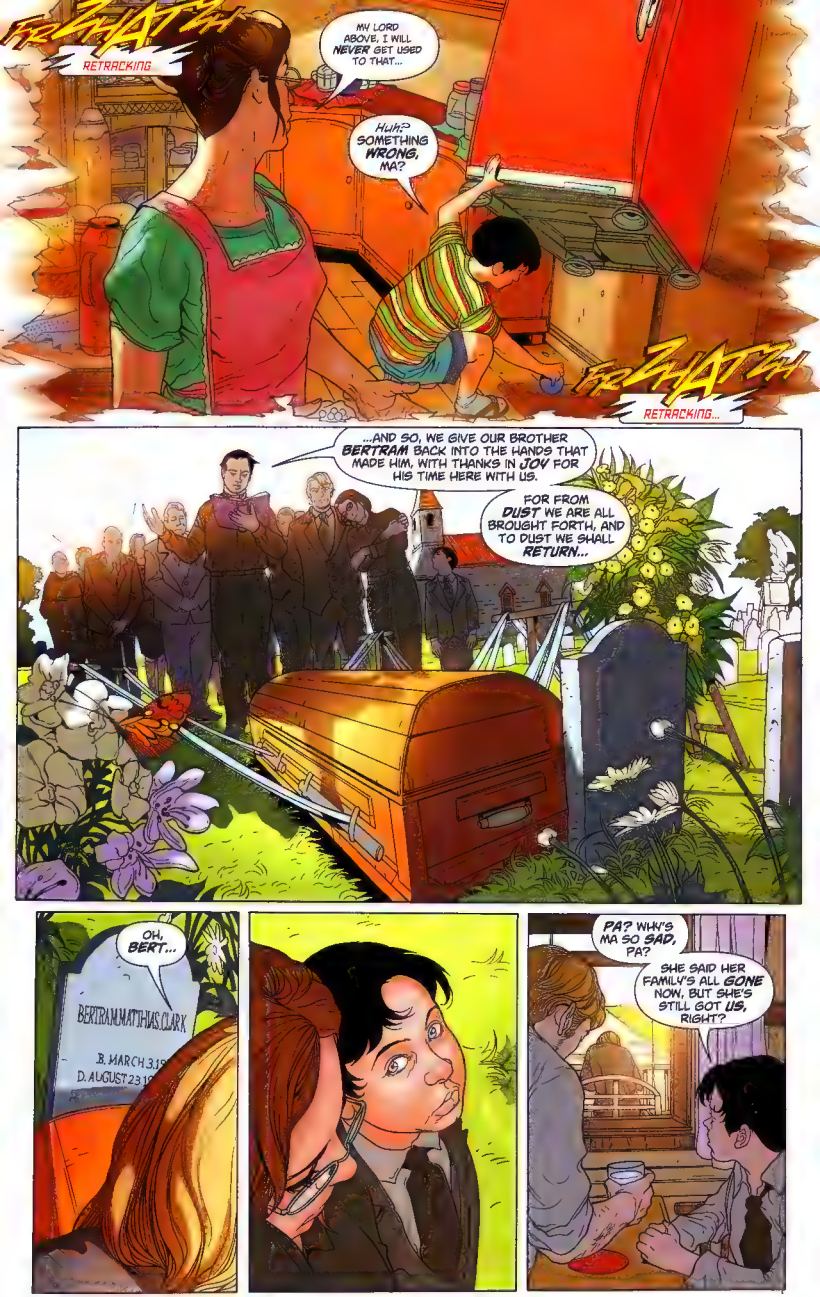
OH, THE POOR KID.
THAT TINY SHIP, ALL THAT SPACE...
ELEMENT LAD IS ALSO THE LONE SURVIVOR OF A LOST PLANET. I WONDER HOW IT FEELS TO ENDURE SUCH A THING.

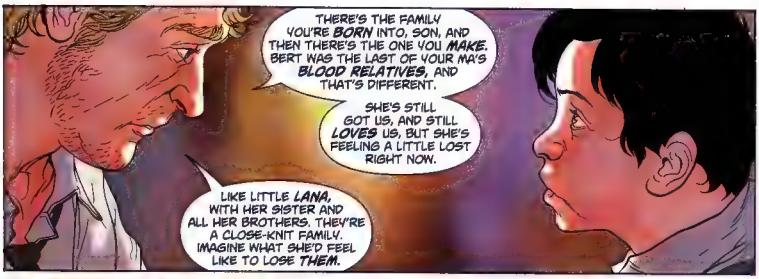

Um, HELLO?
REMEMBER ME?
HE MAY BE THE LAST SON, BUT HE'S NOT THE SOLE SURVIVOR...


RETRACKING
TRUE, AS FAR AS IT GOES. BUT HE REACHES ADULTHOOD BEFORE LEARNING OF YOU. AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, HE'S THE LAST OF HIS KIND.
Aw, C'MON. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT -- HE GETS FOUND AND ADOPTED BY THE TWO FREAKIN' NICEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!
SEE? THERE HE GOES...

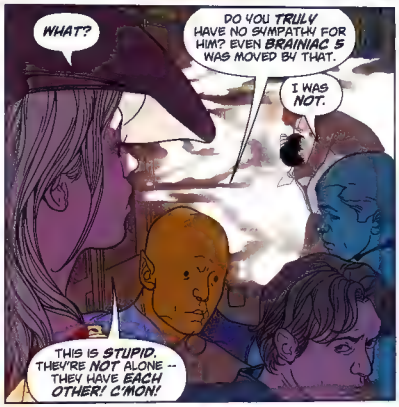

MARTHA! HOW'S OUR BOY DOING TODAY?
HE'S GREAT, JON! HEALTHY, HAPPY -- EATING LIKE MY BROTHER BERT AT THE METHODIST PANCAKE FEED!
HE'S JUST FINE.

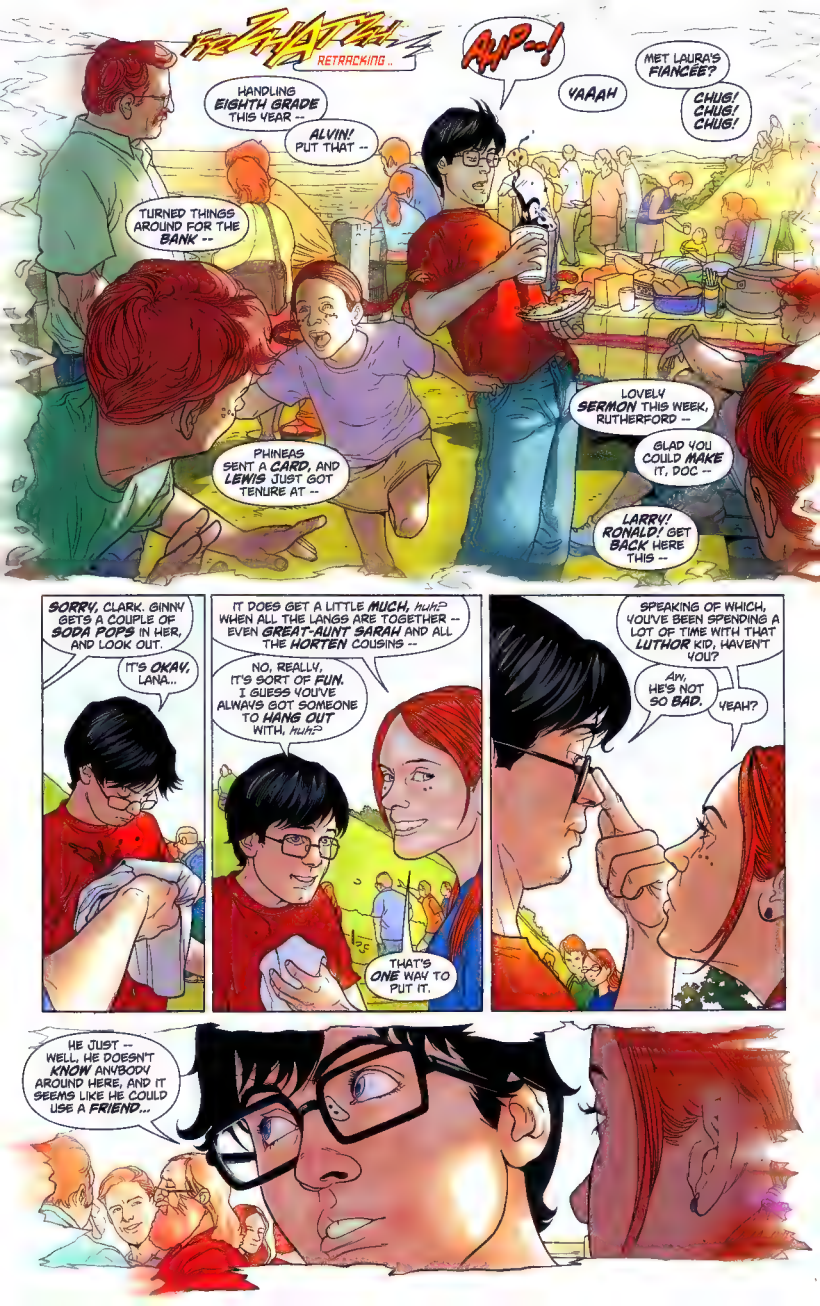

AREN'T YOU, LITTLE CLARK? YOU'RE JUST PERFECT, MMM-?
OH, YOU'RE THE BLESSING I PRAYED FOR SO OFTEN...


RETRACKING
MY LORD ABOVE, I WILL NEVER GET USED TO THAT...
HUH? SOMETHING WRONG, MA?
RETRACKING...
...AND SO, WE GIVE OUR BROTHER BERTRAM BACK INTO THE HANDS THAT MADE HIM, WITH THANKS IN JOY FOR HIS TIME HERE WITH US.
FOR FROM DUST WE ARE ALL BROUGHT FORTH, AND TO DUST WE SHALL RETURN...
OH, BERT...
BERTRAM MATHIAS CLARK
B. MARCH 3,19
D. AUGUST 23,19
PA? WHY'S MA SO SAD, PA?
SHE SAID HER FAMILY'S ALL GONE NOW, BUT SHE'S STILL GOT US, RIGHT?


THERE'S THE FAMILY YOU'RE BORN INTO, SON, AND THEN THERE'S THE ONE YOU MAKE. BERT WAS THE LAST OF YOUR MA'S BLOOD RELATIVES, AND THAT'S DIFFERENT.
SHE'S STILL GOT US, AND STILL LOVES US, BUT SHE'S FEELING A LITTLE LOST RIGHT NOW.
LIKE LITTLE LANA, WITH HER SISTER AND ALL HER BROTHERS. THEY'RE A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY. IMAGINE WHAT SHE'D FEEL LIKE TO LOSE THEM.

MA?
IT'S OKAY, MA. YOU'RE LIKE ME NOW. I DON'T HAVE ANY BLOOD RELATIVES EITHER.
IT'S NOT SO BAD. YOU GET USED TO IT.
OH, CLARK. COME HERE, CLARK...


WHAT?
DO YOU TRULY HAVE NO SYMPATHY FOR HIM? EVEN BRAINIAC 5 WAS MOVED BY THAT.
I WAS NOT.
THIS IS STUPID. THEY'RE NOT ALONE -- THEY HAVE EACH OTHER! C'MON!


RETRACKING...
AHP..!
YAAAH
MET LAURA'S FIANCÉE?
CHUG! CHUG! CHUG!
HANDLING EIGHTH GRADE THIS YEAR --
ALVIN! PUT THAT --
TURNED THINGS AROUND FOR THE BANK --
LOVELY SERMON THIS WEEK, RUTHERFORD --
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, DOC --
PHINEAS SENT A CARD, AND LEWIS JUST GOT TENURE AT --
LARRY! RONALD! GET BACK HERE THIS --
SORRY, CLARK. GINNY GETS A COUPLE OF SODA POPS IN HER, AND LOOK OUT.
IT'S OKAY, LANA...
IT DOES GET A LITTLE MUCH, HUH? WHEN ALL THE LANGS ARE TOGETHER -- EVEN GREAT-AUNT SARAH AND ALL THE HORTEN COUSINS --
NO, REALLY, IT'S SORT OF FUN. I GUESS YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT SOMEONE TO HANG OUT WITH, HUH?
THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH THAT LUTHOR KID, HAVEN'T YOU?
AW, HE'S NOT SO BAD.
YEAH?
HE JUST -- WELL, HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYBODY AROUND HERE, AND IT SEEMS LIKE HE COULD USE A FRIEND...

FTZH FTAH FTZH
FRZHAT
REACQUIRING
I'M GOING TO PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT, CHAMELEON.
I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE SIGNAL...A LOT OF CHRONAL TURBULENCE. NO OBJECTIONS TO JUMPING TO A LATER PERIOD?
WHAT -- WHAT'S THAT?!
UP IN THE SKY! IT'S --
OH, MY LORD --
THERE HE IS!
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU --
HUH?
OVER HERE --
PLEASE, PEOPLE -- THEIR ENGINE FAILED, THEY MAY HAVE INJURED --
-- YOUR NAME?
-- YOU COME FROM?
SMILE FOR --
AUTOGRAPH
ENDORSEMENT DEAL
THE COSTUME, THE "S" -- WHAT DOES IT --
.....
SEE? EVERYONE LOVES HIM! THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT HIM NOW! HE'S FAMOUS -- HE'S A HERO --

RETRACKING
-- HE'LL NEVER BE LONELY AGAIN --
KENT F.
RRINGGG
AH!
HI, MA!
YOU SAW ME ON THE NEWS? WELL, THAT WAS FAST...

THE GANG IN THE LEGION? NO, THEY HAVEN'T COME BACK TO VISIT, NOT IN A WHILE. PROBABLY BUSY, I GUESS...
WHAT? WE USED TO VISIT HIM? HIM?!
WHEN DID WE -- ?
YEAH, I'M SETTLING IN OKAY, I GUESS. WORK'S GOING WELL, MY BUILDING'S GOT A GREAT VIEW OF CENTENNIAL PARK...
NO, NOT YET. I GUESS I'M JUST NOT MUCH FOR GOING OUT, MEETING PEOPLE. THE DOORMAN HERE'S NICE, THOUGH.
OH, C'MON. HE USED TO PLAY FOR THE ROYALS, TELL PA THAT.
OH, YOU TALKED TO MRS. ROSS?
HOW'S PETE DOING IN THE PEACE CORPS? NO -- I DON'T THINK HE HAS MY NEW ADDRESS YET.
LANA CALLED LAST WEEK -- FROM L.A., OF ALL PLACES.
WORKING FOR HER DAD'S BANK IS SURE PILING UP THE FREQUENT FLIER MILES.
I KNOW, MA. I'LL BE FINE. IT'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO ADJUST, THAT'S ALL.
AT WORK? YEAH, WELL...
...THERE'S THIS GIRL...
RETRACKING
KRAK

DR. BERKOWITZ! YOU'VE BLACKED OUT HALF THE CITY! YOU NEED TO SHUT THIS DOWN!
NO! NOT YET!
SUPERMAN!
MYRA'S GONE MAD! SAVE US!
STEP BACK, PLEASE.
YOU CAN'T RUN THIS KIND OF EXPERIMENT WITHIN THE CITY, MA'AM -- IT'S NOT SAFE!
I'M THE MAYOR'S SISTER -- I'LL DO WHAT I WANT!
I'M ALMOST THERE! I'VE ALMOST UNLOCKED THE UNIFIED FIELD THEORY! ANOTHER MINUTE!
MA'AM --
NO! YOU WON'T TAKE IT FROM ME! THE ANSWERS ARE IN THERE! I KNOW IT! THEY'RE --

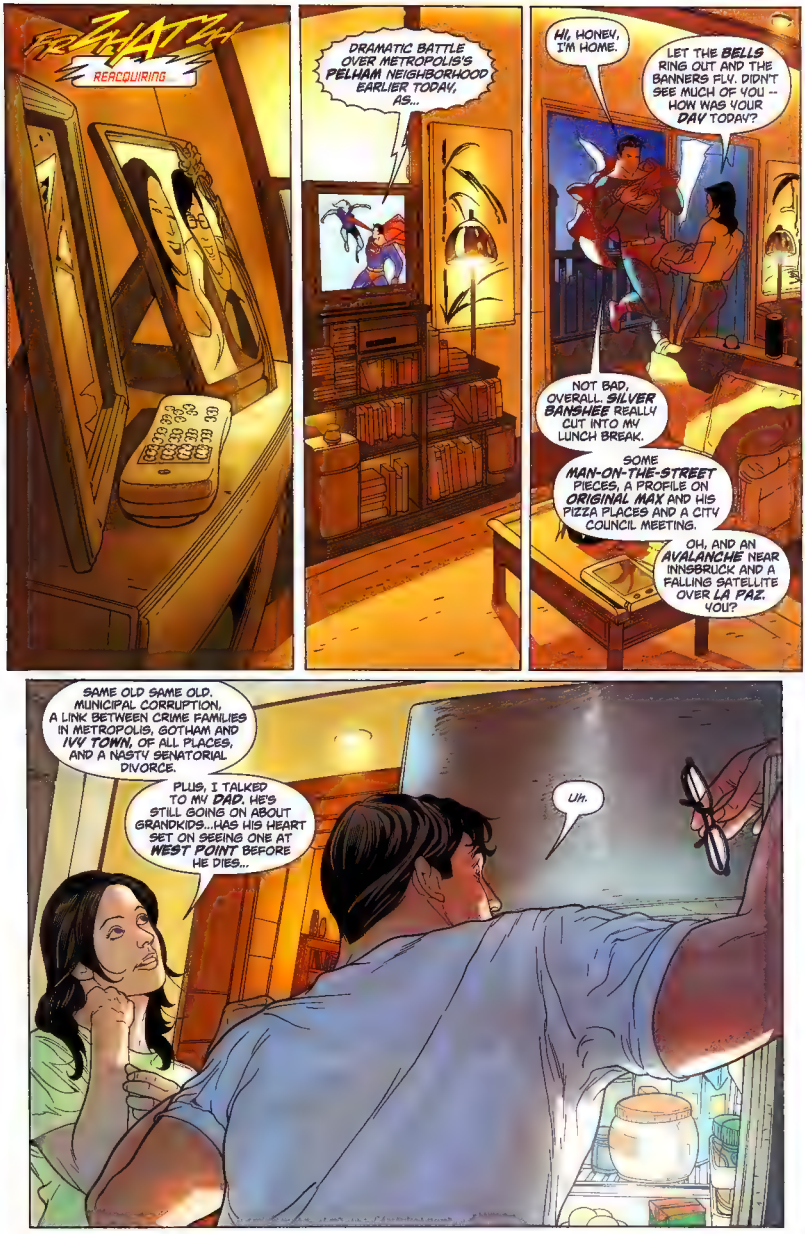
OH!
OH.
DR. BERKO --
Uh.
HOW -- HOW LONG WAS I UNCON --
SUPERMAN! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
SUPERMAN!
uh-oh..

LOIS LANE, DAILY PLANET. WE'VE HAD REPORTS THAT DR. BERKOWITZ WAS RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM HER BROTHER'S OFFICE --
-- AND THUS THE MAYOR IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENDANGERING THE POPULACE. COMMENTS?
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHECK HER PERMITS, MS. LANE. MY FIRST CONCERN WAS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CITY.
IT'S A WORTHWHILE QUESTION, THOUGH.
AND ONE I'LL BE ASKING HIZZONER AT HIS NEXT CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE. BELIEVE ME. BUT YOU MUST HAVE WITNESSED --
I TRY TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...?
HEY --
WAIT --
PFF. WHOLE LOTTA NOTHING. AND HER ASSISTANTS ARE IN NO SHAPE TO TALK...
AM I TOO LATE? WHAT DID I MISS?
NOTHING MUCH, SMALLVILLE. MAYOR'S SISTER BLEW HER LAB UP, AND HERSELF WITH IT, MAYBE. JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE MONARCH CITY.
Hmm. I WONDER IF IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER WORK ON PLASMIC ENERGY/MATTER HYBRID FORMS?
...
HER WHAT?
I LOOKED UP HER DOCTORAL THESIS. SLOW GOING, BUT SOME AMAZING STUFF IN THERE. PLUS, I HAVE THE BUILDING CODE VARIANCES FOR THE LAST YEAR.
WANT TO, um, GRAB A BITE, COMPARE NOTES?
HER THESIS? AND THE CODE VARIANCES? NOT EXACTLY AN I-SAW-IT WITH SUPERMAN, BUT SURE. YOU'RE ON.
DINNER TONIGHT. YOU PICK THE PLACE.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
RETRACKING
...BUT THE AMBASSADOR'S AIDE AND I GO WAY BACK, TO WHEN OUR DADS WERE BOTH STATIONED IN TUNISIA. SO HE GOT ME IN...
...AND THAT'S HOW I GOT MY FIRST BIG EXCLUSIVE. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, KENT? I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THE STAR OF INDIA WAS YOUR SPEED.
OH, I SPENT A LITTLE TIME IN INDIA AFTER HIGH SCHOOL -- NEW DELHI, KARACHI, JAIPUR -- AND I GUESS I PICKED UP A TASTE FOR THE FOOD.
REALLY? INDIA? YOU?
AND BHUTRAN, BAHDESIA, PARTS OF AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, MANILA...
WELL, WELL, WELL. YOU'RE A MAN OF HIDDEN DEPTHS, CLARK KENT.
Um... HUH?
AT THE OFFICE, YOU'RE JUST, WELL, QUIET. BUT NOW HERE WE ARE, RELAXING, CHATTING, GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER, AND THIS COMES OUT.
THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE. WHAT OTHER SECRETS LURK BENEATH THAT MILD-MANNERED MIDWESTERN EXTERIOR, hmm?
Uh...
IT'S...NOT THAT MUCH OF A STORY, REALLY. IT WAS JUST ONE TRIP -- AN OFFBEAT PACKAGE TOUR. ONE BLOWOUT BEFORE COLLEGE AND WORK, YOU KNOW?
I SPENT A LOT OF THE TRIP IN THE HOTEL BATHROOM, ACTUALLY. PICKED UP A BUG IN ORANGA, AND...
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
RETRACKING

SLAM
JUSTICE LEAGUE --
--TOGETHER!
Hm.
PLENTY OF RUBBLE FOR EVERYONE, BIG GUY.
HUH? Oh, SORRY, GREEN LANTERN...
...I WAS JUST... IT FEELS GOOD TO WORK WITH OTHER HEROES. OTHERS LIKE US. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.

I GUESS.
YOU DON'T FEEL IT? THE CHANCE TO BE IN A TEAM OF EQUALS, INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BEING --
M & J
UH, SUPERMAN? I'VE, ah, GOT SORT OF A TROPHY DEN I'M BUILDING, OVER THE GARAGE, AND I WAS HOPING...
WOULD YOU AUTOGRAPH THIS FOR ME? MAYBE WITH YOUR HEAT VISION, IF THAT'S OKAY?
HA! FLASH, YOU'RE NOT --
OH, YOU ARE SERIOUS.
WELL, I GUESS SO, SURE.
THANKS, SUPERMAN. IT MEANS A LOT TO ME.
WANT ME TO AUTOGRAPH SOMETHING TOO?
UH, MAYBE LATER.
HE MEANS WELL, SUPES.
YEAH.
I KNOW.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. STOP LOOKING AT ME, GUYS.
I GET IT, OKAY? I GET IT.


FOOLKAT
REACQUIRING...
DRAMATIC BATTLE OVER METROPOLIS'S PELHAM NEIGHBORHOOD EARLIER TODAY, AS...
HI, HONEY, I'M HOME.
LET THE BELLS RING OUT AND THE BANNERS FLY. DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF YOU -- HOW WAS YOUR DAY TODAY?
NOT BAD, OVERALL. SILVER BANSHEE REALLY CUT INTO MY LUNCH BREAK.
SOME MAN-ON-THE-STREET PIECES, A PROFILE ON ORIGINAL MAX AND HIS PIZZA PLACES AND A CITY COUNCIL MEETING.
OH, AND AN AVALANCHE NEAR INNSBRUCK AND A FALLING SATELLITE OVER LA PAZ. YOU?
SAME OLD SAME OLD. MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION, A LINK BETWEEN CRIME FAMILIES IN METROPOLIS, GOTHAM AND IVY TOWN, OF ALL PLACES, AND A NASTY SENATORIAL DIVORCE.
PLUS, I TALKED TO MY DAD. HE'S STILL GOING ON ABOUT GRANDKIDS...HAS HIS HEART SET ON SEEING ONE AT WEST POINT BEFORE HE DIES...
UH.

CLARK, HE WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND. YOU KNOW HOW HE IS. WE HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT KIDS, TALKED ABOUT IT...
LOIS, WE CAN'T. WE CAN'T.
I'M NOT HUMAN. I LOOK HUMAN, BUT...THE ODDS THAT IT WOULD EVEN BE BIOLOGICALLY POSSIBLE MUST BE...
AND EVEN IF BY SOME MIRACLE YOU COULD BECOME PREGNANT, THE RISK TO YOU -- THE DANGER YOU'D BE IN THE WHOLE TIME --
WE CAN'T.
IT'S OKAY, HON. MY DAD WILL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE DISAPPOINTMENT. I MEAN, DID YOU EVEN WANT KIDS...?
NO, NO. IT'S OKAY.
IT'S... OKAY.

FROM WHAT IF...
RETRACKING

OH, PLEASE. NOW HE'S JUST MOPING.
AND THAT'S SOMETHING YOU NEVER DO?
BESIDES, I THINK WHEN YOU DO IT FROM ORBIT, IT'S CALLED "BROODING."
HE'S LIKE NO ONE HE KNOWS. NO ONE HE EVER EXPECTS TO KNOW. IT'S ONLY NATURAL, FOR A BEING LIKE THAT TO REFLECT FROM TIME TO TIME ...
... ON HIS ISOLATION, ON THE GULF BETWEEN HIM AND THOSE AROUND HIM...
YOU TALKING ABOUT HIM, BRAINY, OR ABOUT...
I'M SKIPPING AHEAD NOW.
FRZHATZH
FRZHATZH
FRZHATZH
WAIT!
THERE! STOP THERE!

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOUR OWN HISTORY.
OH, SHUT UP. THAT'S GOTHAM CITY -- THAT'S MY FIRST DAY ON EARTH!
NICE OUTFIT THERE, KARA.
OH, SHUT UP.
RETRACKING...
KRYPTO! NO! DOWN, BOY! DOWN!
GRRAFARFARF
WHAT'S WITH THE DOG? IT'S LIKE HE HATES YOU!
I...HAD ISSUES.
RETRACKING
I'LL SAY!

RETRACKING..
TELL ME THIS IS FOR THE BEST.
IT IS.
YOU NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ROBIN THROWING A TEENAGE FIT AND CRACKING THE PLANET IN HALF...
NO, BUT THE AMAZONS WILL TRAIN HER, HERE ON PARADISE ISLAND. SHE'S COMFORTABLE HERE. SHE DOESN'T FEEL THREATENED.
SHE'LL LEARN TO COPE WITH LIFE ON EARTH, TO CONTROL HER POWERS.
I KNOW..
RETRACKING
...IT'S JUST THAT -- I FEEL LIKE I'M ABANDONING HER. LIKE I'VE FAILED HER ON SOME LEVEL, FAILED TO CONNECT WITH HER...
...TO GET HER TO SEE ME AS A RELATIVE, INSTEAD OF JUST AN AUTHORITY FIGURE, TELLING HER "NO" ALL THE TIME.

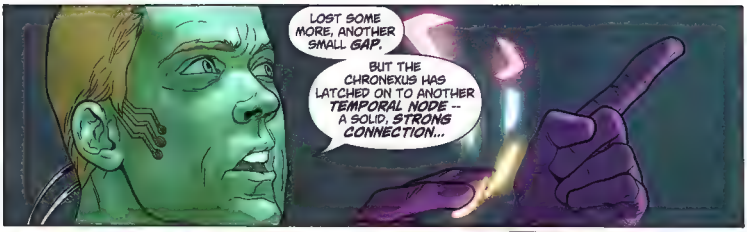
AM I MAKING A MISTAKE? WORRYING TOO MUCH? I MEAN, I GOT A HANDLE ON MY POWERS ALL RIGHT.
OVER TIME. AS YOU GREW UP. YOU DIDN'T JUST GET THEM FULLY-DEVELOPED, ALL AT ONCE, LIKE SHE DID.
BUT DIANA AND THE AMAZONS WILL HELP HER. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

BATMAN SAID THE SAME THING. IT'S JUST...I FEEL LIKE WE LEFT THINGS BETWEEN US UNRESOLVED, LEFT THEM IN THE WRONG PLACE.
I DO WORRY ABOUT HER. BUT NOT BECAUSE I THINK SHE'S A THREAT. I WANT...FOR HER TO ADJUST EASILY. TO BE HAPPY.
IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED, CLARK...

...WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT BIG GOOFY GRIN PLASTERED ON YOUR FACE?
DO I?
UH-HUH. FOR DAYS NOW.

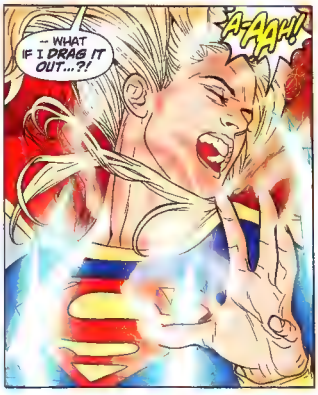
Huh.
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE... I HAVE A FAMILY AGAIN.

...
Huh.


LOST SOME MORE, ANOTHER SMALL GAP.
BUT THE CHRONEXUS HAS LATCHED ON TO ANOTHER TEMPORAL NODE -- A SOLID, STRONG CONNECTION...

KSSH
SUPERGIRL! BLACKSTAR!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
STAY OUT OF THIS, SUPERMAN --
-- THIS IS MY FIGHT!

YOUR FIGHT? YOUR FIGHT, YOU SKINNY LITTLE STICK-INSECT OF A GIRL? YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ME?!
I'VE BEEN TO THE VERY CORE OF REALITY, WHERE MATTER AND ENERGY ARE ONE -- AND I'VE BEEN TRANSFORMED BY IT!
I CAN FOLD, STRETCH AND COMMAND THE ENERGIES OF THE COSMOS AS I WILL!
THE SOLAR POWER WITHIN YOU, FOR INSTANCE --


-- WHAT IF I DRAG IT OUT...?!
A-AAH!

NNH!
DR. BERKOWITZ... I WON'T LET YOU...
AH-AH! MYRA BERKOWITZ IS GONE, YOU MUSCLE-BRAINED OAF. AND NOW... NOW I HAVE BOTH OF YOU...
AGAIN...WITH THE OVERPROTECTIVE CRAP! WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LEARN...I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...?
SUPERGIRL! JUST...BREAK FREE...
BREAK FREE QUICKLY...AND HIT HER!
SO SAD. SO SAD, TOO BAD.
CAN'T EVEN DEAL WITH EACH OTHER -- HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO DEAL WITH ME? GRAVITONS, ELECTRONS, TACHYONS, PIONS, MUONS, ALL AT MY COMMAND...
...AND YOU, FATALLY SNARED -- EVERY SPARK WITHIN YOU, LIKE SO MANY CANDY SPRINKLES IN MY HANDS, TO PLAY WITH AS I CHOOSE...
HNH! WHAT...?
I'M... DIZZY, SO DIZZY... WHY...
THE VERY NEURONS IN YOUR BRAINS -- I'M WRAPPING THEM IN A GRAVITY WEB, SLOWING DOWN THE SIGNALS WITHIN THEM --
-- KILLING YOU BY SHUTTING DOWN YOUR OWN TH --
FRZ-FRZ-AH-

WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I'M NOT SURE. WE STILL HAVE A CONNECTION. A RIDICULOUSLY STRONG CONNECTION.
BLACKSTAR'S POWERS.
THEY AFFECT EVEN TEMPORAL PARTICLES. WE'RE GETTING FEEDBACK. ALL THE WAY UP THE LINE UNTIL NOW.
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! YOU SAID THIS COULD BE A TIME MACHINE -- CAN YOU SEND ME BACK? I COULD HELP, SURPRISE HER...
I SAID IT WAS A STEP TOWARD A TIME MACHINE. BUT THIS -- IT HAPPENED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
STILL, THAT FEEDBACK -- IF YOU USE IT AS A BRIDGE --
I COULD. BUT IT'D ONLY SUPPORT MENTAL WAVES, NO PHYSICAL MATTER AT ALL...
THEN DO THAT!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT! IT'S AFTER I CAME HERE! HE -- I -- I DON'T KNOW IF WE LIVE OR DIE!
LOOK. IT'S IMPORTANT. SEND MY MIND BACK. MY THOUGHTS... DO SOMETHING, OKAY?
ALL RIGHT. BUT I'M IMPROVISING HERE. IT'S LIABLE TO...
NNNNAAA

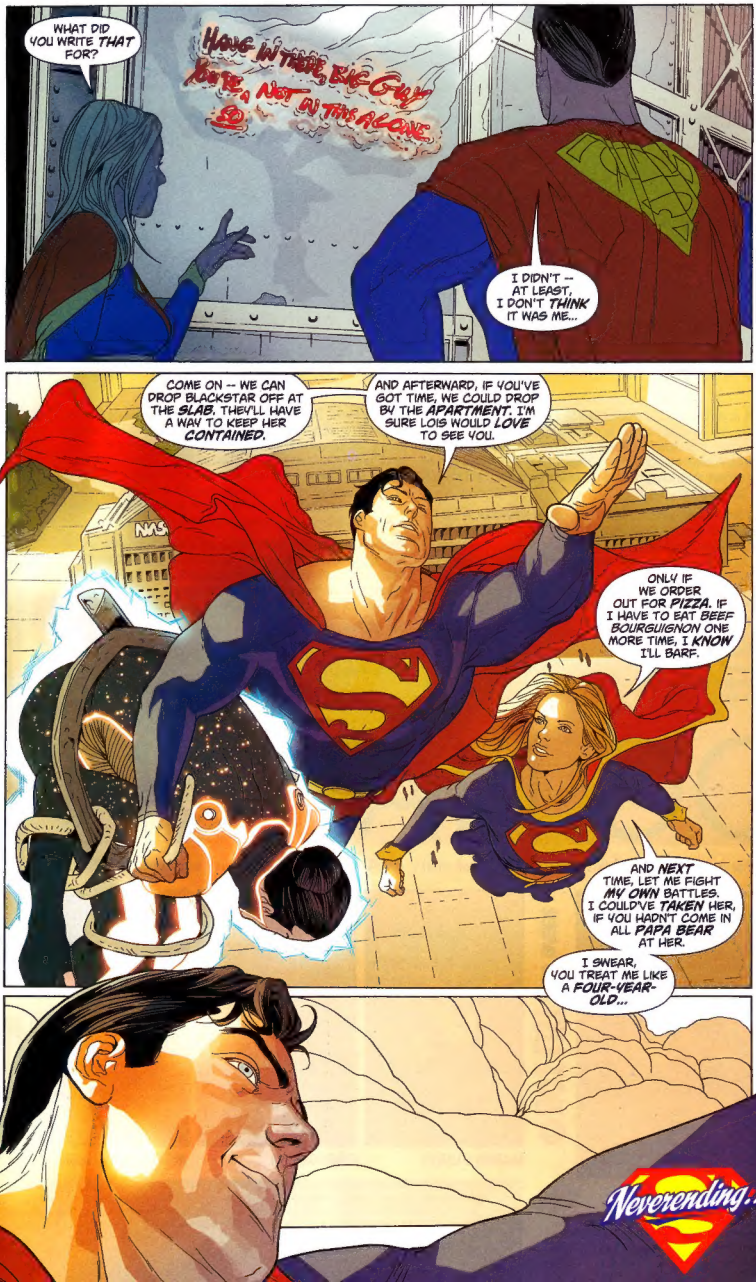
B-BLACKSTAR... WON'T...CAN'T...
ugUUUUU
HA! YOU CAN'T EVEN FORM COHERENT THOUGHTS ANY MORE! ANOTHER FEW MOMENTS, AND --
WON' LETTCHU...WON' LETTCHU...
WON'...
WON'...
NO!
KZKAKK
WHOA.
THAAAT'S WEIRD.
FREE? BUT -- THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE BRAIN FUNCTION LEFT -- THE MENTAL STRENGTH TO --
WAIT. WHERE DID HE GO? HE SHOULD BE EXHAUSTED -- NEAR DEAD --
BLACKSTAR --
--SHUT UP!
PKAMM

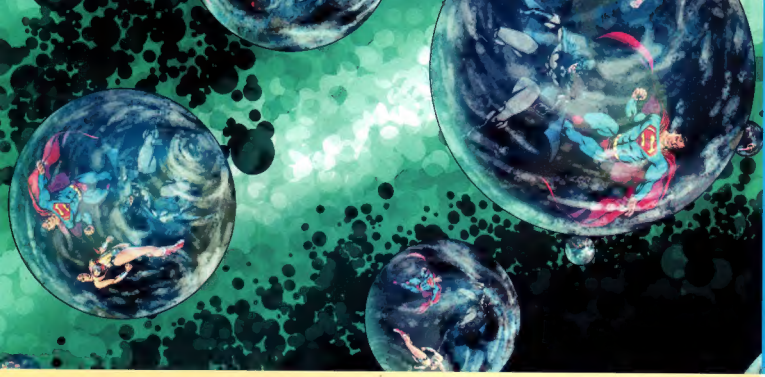
AAAAAAND... BOOM.
BOOM
LITTLE DOPE.
WHAT CAN I -- ah.
GOOD.
NO, WAIT, NOT QUITE --
HA? WHAT'RE YOU...
FRAHATZH

BWHM
OVERLOAD! OVERLOAD!
ZKAK
HEY, WHAT'S GOING --
THE TACHYON LINK, IT'S RUPTURING --
FRZHATZH
YOU ARE UNWELCOME HERE, SON OF KRYPTON.
YOU WILL BE ELIMINATED...
LIM...I...NATED!
FRZHATZH!
DAD! MOM! YOU'RE ALIVE!
FRZHATZH!

IT'S...IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
I CAN BARELY BELIEVE IT...

FRZHAFZH FRZHAFZH
THOSE IMAGES -- WERE THOSE --
LOOK OUT! THE WHOLE LAB'S SUFFERING POWER DISRUPTION -- MY FORCE FIELD MIGHT NOT WITHSTAND --
NO PROB. I GOT IT.
HM?
-- HER PARENTS?
OH, YOU GOT THOSE SCENES TOO?
I SKIDDED THROUGH THEM ON THE WAY DOWN THE TIMESTREAM -- MUST HAVE BROUGHT 'EM BACK WITH ME.
ALL THOSE BRAINIACS, MY PARENTS, THAT WHOLE CITY OF --
IS THAT WHAT'S COMING? UH, BACK THEN, I MEAN.
THERE ARE... WELL, THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T KNOW. AND THOSE TIMELINES COULD BE ALTERED, IF YOU GO BACK AND DISRUPT SOMETHING BEFORE...
BRAINY! IF YOU DON'T KNOW, JUST SAY, "I DON'T KNOW!" ALL RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT, I DON'T KNOW. OUR RECORDS OF THAT ERA ARE WOEFULLY INCOMPLETE.
BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE NEW DATA NOW, AND MAYBE I CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET YOU HOME FOR REAL.
I WONDER WHY SENDING KARA'S MIND BACK DIDN'T WORK. SHE NEVER EVEN MADE IT BACK TO HER PAST BODY...
OH, WHO SAYS I WENT BACK TO MY BODY...?


WHAT DID YOU WRITE THAT FOR?
HANG IN THERE, BIG GUY! YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE.
I DIDN'T -- AT LEAST, I DON'T THINK IT WAS ME...
COME ON -- WE CAN DROP BLACKSTAR OFF AT THE SLAB. THEY'LL HAVE A WAY TO KEEP HER CONTAINED.
AND AFTERWARD, IF YOU'VE GOT TIME, WE COULD DROP BY THE APARTMENT. I'M SURE LOIS WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU.
ONLY IF WE ORDER OUT FOR PIZZA. IF I HAVE TO EAT BEEF BOURGUIGNON ONE MORE TIME, I KNOW I'LL BARF.
AND NEXT TIME, LET ME FIGHT MY OWN BATTLES. I COULD'VE TAKEN HER, IF YOU HADN'T COME IN ALL PAPA BEAR AT HER.
I SWEAR, YOU TREAT ME LIKE A FOUR-YEAR-OLD...
Neverending...



Well, as you saw in the thrilling conclusion of 52, the Multiverse is back. Or should I say, a new Multiverse is here. A huge defining moment in the DC Universe, so big, in fact, it has divided the DC Nation into three distinct camps: one group cheering its return, a second lamenting its return, and a third wondering what the hell everyone else is talking about. So, in the interests of clarity, let's start with the third group first.

The Multiverse is a concept created in the 1960s to explain how we had two different sets of characters with the same names. The two Flashes (Jay Garrick and Barry Allen, introduced in the '40s and '50s respectively), Green Lanterns, Atoms, and Hawkmen, not only existed at different times, but as the readers soon found out, in different universes. Two Earths, similar in so many ways but completely different too. But the birth of Earth-2 soon gave way to the birth of Earth-3, another world, also similar but vastly different. Then came Earth-A, and Earth-X, and Earths too many to remember. So many, in fact, that the multiple Earths idea seemed to get a bit unwieldly, and in an effort to simplify, CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS was born. At the end of that legendary series, only one Earth remained. And if you discount antimatter and pocket dimensions, alternate timelines and such, it has pretty much stayed that way until now. Which brings us to the second group.

Why bring it back? Simple answer? It was a great idea in the '60s (tip of the hat to legendary DC editor **Julie Schwartz**) and it's a great idea now – it managed properly. And that's what we plan to do, and believe it or not there is a plan in place for all the goings-on in the Multiverse. This new Multiverse has 52 (the magic number) distinct universes, half which are catalaged, half which are not. But as for the ones we know, you will be seeing glimpses of them throughout the year in several series like COUNTDOWN and COUNTDOWN TO ADVENTURE featuring the Challengers from Beyond. Which brings us full circle to the first group.

If you loved the original Multiverse then you will be happy to know that some of these new universes are close to the ones you remember (evil versions of the Justice League, Nazis winning World War II) and some new universes might seem vaguely familiar (Vampire Batman and Russian Superman?), but all of them will have the same level of thrills and excitement the old pre-Crisis Multiverse had.

Time to fasten your seat belts; this crazy ride is about to start!

To be continued. DD

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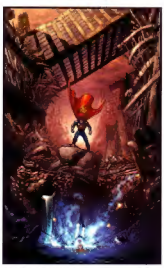
DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK

AMAZONS ATTACK #2



COUNTDOWN #48

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #6

Next in...

ACTION COMICS #851

General Zod's mob of Kryptonians are running riot through Metropolis! Can Superman break free of the Phantom Zone in time to stop them?!? In 3-D!!!

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